

*The Fauna and Geography of the Maldive and Laccadive Archipelagoes.* Edited by J. STANLEY GARDINER, M.A. Vol. I. Parts III. & IV. Cambridge: at the University Press. London: C. J. Clay & Sons. 1902.

THE great feature of this important work is undoubtedly Mr. Gardiner's contribution dealing with the Formation and Growth of Coral-Reefs, which was begun in Part I. In the two parts which have since appeared, this subject, profusely illustrated with charts and diagrams, is still further pursued and is not yet finished.

The sections, in Part III., on the Formation of Lagoons, the Rate of Growth of Corals and Reefs, and the Action of Boring and Sand-feeding Organisms are not only extremely interesting, but also most important contributions to our knowledge of these subjects.

Of the numerous purely Zoological Reports, some are necessarily of more interest than others. In Part II. we may specially mention those on the Echiuroidea and Sipunculoidea, by A. E. Shipley, M.A.; the Marine Crustacea, by L. A. Borradaile, M.A.; the Chaetognatha, by L. Doncaster, B.A.; and that "On the Pigments of certain Corals, with a Note on the Pigment of an Asterid," by Dr. MacMunn.

Part III. contains five Zoological Reports. In one of these Mr. Borradaile continues his description of the Marine Crustacea. Of the remaining four, attention must be drawn to that by Prof. Jeffrey Bell, M.A., on "The Actinogonidiate Echinoderms of the Maldive and Laccadive Islands," on account of his suggestive remarks on the reproduction of Ophiurids; and to that by Frank Laidlaw, B.A., on "The Marine Turbellaria."

*Publications of the British Museum of Natural History,  
South Kensington.*

*Guide to the Galleries of Mammalia.* Seventh Edition. Pp. 126; 65 woodcuts. 1902.

*Guide to the Coral Gallery.* Pp. 73, with numerous Illustrations. 1902.

THE Natural History Guides of the British Museum are marvels of cheapness and models of exposition.

The Guide to the Galleries of the Mammalia has just reached the seventh edition. Turning over its pages one sees that this last edition is no mere reprint, but has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date, several new figures having been added to this end. Amongst the most conspicuous of these are the heads of the Somali zebra and the North-African giraffe, and a really excellent drawing of the okapi.

The Guide to the Coral Gallery, which fills a long-felt want, may be truthfully described as a wonderful production, both on account

of the number and beauty of the illustrations and of the prodigious amount of most useful and readable information that has been crowded into the text.

The volume contains terse descriptions of the Protozoa, Porifera, Hydrozoa, and Anthozoa. Brief though the accounts of these groups are, yet space has been found to enumerate the systematic position of each, the anatomical structure and life-history, and their economic importance where such occurs.

The authors, Prof. Jeffrey Bell and Mr. Kirkpatrick, are to be heartily congratulated on having accomplished a most difficult task in a really admirable manner. They have produced a book that should meet with a warm appreciation from those for whom it has been specially prepared.

Only an institution like the British Museum could afford to issue such a volume for the sum of *one shilling!*

*Catalogue of Birds' Eggs.* Vol. II. By EUGENE W. OATES.  
Pp. 400; pls. xv. 1902.

WE must congratulate Mr. Oates on the completion of the second volume of this really valuable work, which commences with the Charadriiformes and concludes with the Strigiformes.

In an all-too-brief Introduction Mr. Oates tells us that the eggs of 726 species have been described, representing some 1500 specimens. The description of these eggs is published without any comment whatsoever; and though this, perhaps, in a Catalogue is all that is required, we cannot refrain from expressing a wish that Mr. Oates had given us, from his stores of knowledge, some account of the extent, trend, and probable significance of the variations presented by the eggs of the birds dealt with in this volume. With Prof. Poulton we "look forward to the time when any description of colour and marking will be considered incomplete unless supplemented by an account of their meaning and importance in the life of the species."

This volume is illustrated by fifteen beautifully coloured plates drawn by Mr. Grönvold.

*Zoological Results based on Material from New Britain, New Guinea, Loyalty Islands, and elsewhere, collected during the Years 1895, 1896, and 1897 by Arthur Willey.* Part VI. Cambridge, 1902. 4to.

WITH the appearance of Part VI. the long and valuable series of reports and articles published as the "Zoological Results" of Dr. Willey's South Sea travels is brought to an end. This part consists of a single work by the explorer himself under the title of "Contributions to the Natural History of the Pearly Nautilus." It is divided into two sections—a "Personal Narrative" of the voyage and a "Special Contribution" on the Nautilus.

The Personal Narrative is good reading from beginning to end,